

# INTRODUCTION

The S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report is published annually by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

The report, which is required by the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991, is to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by March 15 of each calendar year reflecting activities of the previous fiscal year (FY). The report is to provide a comprehensive overview of solid waste management including: the amount and type of solid waste recycled, disposed of in landfills and incinerated; the progress of the state and each county towards meeting the state's recycling and waste disposal (reduction) goals; recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for improving solid waste management; and any revisions to the state's solid waste plan.

This report focuses primarily on municipal solid waste (MSW). There are many types of solid waste, but South Carolina's recycling rate is measured only from the total amount of MSW generated (recycled + disposed of). See page 9 for more details. Other types of solid waste – construction and demolition debris, industrial waste and land-clearing debris – are addressed on a limited basis in this document (see page 61).

What is MSW? In South Carolina, MSW is the combined residential, commercial, institutional/non-profit and industrial packaging/administrative waste generated. MSW includes paper, cans, bottles, food scraps, yard trimmings, packaging and other items (see Chart 2.1 for more examples). It does not include industrial pre-consumer process waste such as scraps and by-products from a manufacturing process, agricultural waste, hazardous waste, infectious waste, mining waste, radioactive waste and sewage sludge.

This report is based on data provided by counties and MSW facilities. Counties are required to provide recycling information for the previous FY to DHEC by October 1 annually. MSW landfills and MSW incinerators are required to report disposal information for the previous FY by October 15 annually. This report reflects MSW management activities for FY04 (July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004).

There are several changes to this year's report beyond the focus on MSW. Another significant change is the length of this report. It is shorter for easier use and reference. Given that, additional information is available on the Web when you see this graphic. For the first time, some environmental impact equivalencies for recycling are provided for the state and each county. Finally, there is a section on Demonstration of Need (DON). DON is used to determine maximum allowable tonnage rates for solid waste disposal facilities.



## Table of Contents

<b>SECTION 1: S.C. Statistics</b>	3
<b>SECTION 2: Overview</b>	7
What is the definition of MSW? ...	8
How much MSW was generated? .....	9
Legislative Summary .....	10
Recommendations .....	11
<b>SECTION 3: Recycling Efforts</b>	13
Glass.....	14
Metal.....	15
Paper .....	17
Plastic.....	19
Banned & Miscellaneous Items ...	21
Used Motor Oil.....	22
State Agencies, Colleges & Universities .....	23
<b>SECTION 4: Disposal Data</b>	25
<b>SECTION 5: The State &amp; Counties at a Glance</b>	29
State & County MSW Recycling & Disposal Rates .....	30
State & County Recycling Data ...	32
Full-cost Disclosure .....	56
<b>SECTION 6: Demonstration of Need</b>	59
<b>SECTION 7: Other Types of Solid Waste</b>	61

## About this Report...

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**DIRECTOR:** Arthur D. Braswell

**EDITOR:** Elizabeth Rosinski

**STATISTICAL DATA:** Pete Stevens

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Richard Chesley; Gregg Glymph; Eric Melaro; Elizabeth Rosinski; and Pete Stevens.

